

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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11/2/92

**PROGRESS POLREP****DATE: 11/2/92****FROM: WILLIAM SIMES, OSC, EERB, RESPONSE SECTION III, USEPA**

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**SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY OIL SPILL, GARY, LAKE COUNTY, IN****POLREP: POLREP 5**

**RESPONSE AUTHORITY: OPA**  
**NPL STATUS: NON-NPL**  
**START DATE: 06/23/92**

**1. SITUATION:**

ON JUNE 23, 1992, THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (U.S. EPA), AND ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM (TAT) CONTRACTOR RESPONDED TO A REPORT BY GARY AIR & LAND POLLUTION CONTROL (GALPC) OF AN OIL SPILL ALONG A DITCH BANK BORDERING THE GARY REGIONAL AIRPORT (GRA) ALONG INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY IN GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA. AN OIL SHEEN WAS OBSERVED ON THE WATERWAY (DITCH) SURFACE AND A THICK OIL LAYER WAS NOTICED ALONG THE DITCH BANKS. THE WATERWAY LEADS DOWNSTREAM AND EVENTUALLY DISCHARGES TO THE GRAND CALUMET RIVER JUST SOUTH OF THE AIRPORT. TAT COLLECTED TWO SAMPLES OF THE OIL PHASE FROM THE DITCH WATERWAY AND PLACED A CONTAINMENT BOOM ON THE WATERWAY TO PREVENT FURTHER MIGRATION OF THE OIL DOWNSTREAM. THE SAMPLES WERE ANALYZED FOR PCBS AND OIL AND GREASE. GRA AND GALPC OFFICIALS ALSO ASSISTED WITH RESPONSE EFFORTS. INITIAL RESPONSE EFFORTS TO LOCATE THE SPILL WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AND WORK WAS SUSPENDED UNTIL THE SAMPLE RESULTS WERE RECEIVED. THE U.S. EPA NOTIFIED THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG) TO ACTIVATE THE OIL POLLUTION ACT (OPA) FUND TO CONDUCT A CLEAN-UP OF THE SPILL.

**2. ACTION TAKEN:**

AT THE REQUEST OF THE U.S. EPA ON-SCENE COORDINATOR (OSC), SITE CLEAN-UP EFFORTS HAVE CONTINUED. ON SEPTEMBER 21 AND OCTOBER 28,

THE OPA CLEANUP CONTRACTOR, CLEAN HARBORS, CONDUCTED ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE EAST AND WEST DITCHES, INCLUDING CHANGING OUT OF THE OIL-SOAKED ABSORBENT BOOMS AND PADS. THE CLEANUP CONTRACTOR HAS BEEN PLACING OIL-SOAKED MATERIALS IN AN ON-SITE ROLL-OFF CONTAINER.

FURTHER VISUAL EVIDENCE OF FLOATING OIL ALONG THE WEST DITCH OR TRENCH HAS INDICATED THE OIL MAY BE MIGRATING UNDERGROUND FROM A NEARBY U.S. EPA SUPERFUND SITE, BUT NO SPILL SOURCE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

3. FUTURE ACTIONS:

- PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER TREATMENT/OIL RECOVERY SYSTEM TO CONSIST OF TWO DRAWDOWN WELLS WITH SEPARATE DUAL PUMP SYSTEMS, ONE PUMP TO DRAW DOWN THE GROUNDWATER FOR INCREASED HYDRAULIC FLOW AND A SECOND PUMP FOR THE EXTRACTION OF HYDROCARBONS FROM SUMPS INTO COLLECTION TANKS. THE RECOVERY UNITS WILL BE INSTALLED ON BOTH ENDS OF THE PRESENT WEST TRENCH. COLLECTED HYDROCARBONS WILL BE DISPOSED AND TREATED GROUNDWATER WILL BE DISCHARGED. THE ESTIMATED COST FOR SYSTEM INSTALLATION WITH A 9 MONTH OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PERIOD AND PROJECT CONTINGENCIES, IS \$317,458.15. NOTE: THIS ACTION HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO PROVIDE A MORE PERMANENT MEASURE TO CLEANUP THE ON-SITE CONTAMINATION THAN IS POSSIBLE WITH THE CURRENT SURFACE WATER CONTAINMENT AND RECOVERY SYSTEM.
- CONTAIN ANY OIL ON WATERWAYS USING SORBENT BOOMS AND PADS TO PREVENT FURTHER MIGRATION.
- ARRANGE DISPOSAL FOR OIL-CONTAMINATED ABSORBENT BOOM AND PADS.
- CONDUCT FURTHER ROUTINE INSPECTIONS OF THE SPILL AREA.
- INVESTIGATE, IDENTIFY, AND MITIGATE THE SPILL SOURCE.

4. ESTIMATED COSTS (AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1992)

	<u>CEILING</u>	<u>EST. COSTS</u>	<u>EST. AMOUNT REMAINING</u>
OPA CLEANUP CONTRACTOR	\$150,000.00	\$111,291.70	\$ 38,708.30*

NOTE: PROJECT COSTS WILL BE UPDATED ONCE FINAL CONTRACTOR BILLING HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

\* APPROXIMATELY \$62,000.00 IN DISPOSAL COSTS IS PENDING.